

Historic



Timeline

Mid 1800's

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Robert Blackwood moves to the land where Maybury Farm now stands. He built the home, farmed the land and lived here with his wife, children and niece, Mary Blackwood.

1871

Dr. M.T. Wallin and Mary Blackwood were married at the home of her uncle, Robert Blackwood.

Mr. Blackwood moves out of state and Dr. and Mrs. Wallin move into his farm home, which still stands today on Maybury Farm. For nearly 40 years, the Wallin family lived here, raising their three daughters and operating a 200-acre farm they called "The Maples."



1908

The Wallin Family moves to Detroit.

1919

Construction begins on the sanatorium. Mr. Maybury supervises each detail of construction, acting as architect, engineer, contractor and foreman. Because of his resourcefulness, the children's unit is constructed ahead of schedule.

1917

The City of Detroit purchases eight farms (about 850 acres) in Northville Township to construct a sanatorium to treat tuberculosis (TB) patients. Detroit Mayor James Couzens appoints William H. Maybury to head up the project.

1922

The sanatorium is formally dedicated as Spring Hills Sanatorium.

Early years of the sanatorium

Howard and Helen Whipple run the farm which provided fresh milk and food for the sanatorium patients. They keep a room for Mr. Maybury in the farmhouse so that he does not need to travel back and forth to his home in Detroit.

When construction was finished on the sanatorium, the institution was like a self-contained community with over 40 buildings. These included an electric power plant, central heating unit, water supply, laundry, pasteurization plant, fire protection and homes and dormitories for staff. Maybury Farm supplied fresh milk and food for the patients. There was a school for both children and adults.

Spring Hills Sanatorium is renamed Maybury Sanatorium in honor of William H. Maybury's great efforts.



1927

1930

Mr. Maybury is informed that he has tuberculosis. It being a terminal case, he asks Mr. and Mrs. Whipple if he can spend his last days on the farm. They take him in.

NOVEMBER 4, 1931

William H. Maybury passes away in the Maybury Farmhouse at the age of 72.

1969

As an effective antibiotic treatment for TB was discovered in the 1940's, patient numbers gradually declined and in the late 1960's the decision was made to close Maybury Sanatorium. The last patients were transferred in August 1969.

JANUARY 2003

In late 2002, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) had asked the Northville Community Foundation (NCF) to consider taking over the operations of Maybury Farm. The DNR had closed the farm and was divesting itself of all activities other than the parks. Negotiations began in January of 2003.

NOVEMBER 1, 2003

An agreement is reached between the DNR and the Northville Community Foundation. The NCF takes over operations of Maybury Farm.

FEBRUARY 2003

While the farm is still under the care of the DNR, a fire of undetermined origin destroyed the barns and everything in them. The State was self insured so there was not money to rebuild. The NCF decides to continue with negotiations and take on the responsibility of rebuilding Maybury Farm.

AUGUST 7, 2005

Two historic barns are moved four miles from the property now known as Island Lakes subdivision in Novi to Maybury Farm. The over 100-years old barns were moved as they stand - 40' tall and as wide as the two lane roads and their shoulders.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

After much dedication and hard work by the NCF, local businesses and the community, Maybury Farm re-opens to the public.



2005